



TESTIMONY FOR SB0818
Environment – Permit Applications – Environmental Justice Screening

Bill Sponsor: Senator Ellis

Committee: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0818 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

The Department of the Environment has time and again approved permits that allow for harm to the very communities they are supposed to be protecting. This bill would require anyone who applies for a permit from the Department of the Environment to include the EJ Score from the EJScreen Mapping Tool for the area affected by the permit. It would also require the Department of the Environment to perform an analysis regarding the environmental justice impact of the permit before deciding whether to issue it.

This is just good policy. The Department of the Environment should have been doing this all along, but it is clear that there has to be a legislative remedy to ensure that the people of this state are protected.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.